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April 15, 1999

8158 '99 APR 19 P1:52

Lyle D. Jaffe
Dockets Management
FDA/DHHS
12420 Parklawn Drive
Room I-23
Rockville, MD 20857

Re: Docket 98P-0203/CP
Petition to Ban the Forced Molting of Layer Hens

Dear Mr. Jaffe:

I support the petition to ban the forced molting of layer hens.

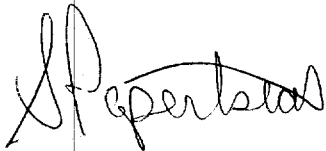
Already raised under cruel and inhumane conditions, layer hens are forced to molt by starving them, with no food and water, for two weeks or longer. They are also kept in total darkness for many weeks. This slow and painful starvation is experienced by at least 75% of the laying hens in North America. Furthermore, many of these birds die and remain as rotting corpses in their crowded cages, terrifying and confusing the other starving birds.

Furthermore, the stress of forced molting weakens the chickens' immune systems and results in, among other ailments, salmonella infections which contaminate both bird and eggs.

Great Britain banned this horrifying practice 12 years ago! And most European nations prohibit food deprivation of more than one day. This inhumane practice must be stopped, especially in this nation which prides itself on its humanity.

I urge you to do everything in your power to have this ban implemented immediately and permanently, for the sake of both humans and chickens.

Sincerely,



98P-0203

C1045



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